कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) और (ख) परंपरागत रूप से रासायनिक उर्वरक इस्तेमाल किए जाते रहे हैं तथा इनसे फसल उत्पादकता और मृदा की उर्वरता बढ़ने में मदद मिली हैं। फसल उत्पादन में और अधिक वृद्धि करने की आवश्यकता बढ़ने से जैव उर्वरकों और कम्पोस्ट/खेत से प्राप्त खाद जैसे जैविक उर्वरकों के माध्यम से पोषक तत्वों के पूरक संसाधनों के उपयोग का महत्व बढ़ रहा हैं। इन उर्वरकों का एक विशेष लाभ यह है कि वे पर्यावरण के लिये अनुकूल हैं तथा मृदा की उर्वरता बनाए रखने के लिये,विशेष कर दूसरी हरित क्रान्ति लाने हेतु पोषक तत्वों का एक सस्ता स्रोत हैं।

(ग) और(घ) भारत सरकार केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की और केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के माध्यम से कृषि में जैविक उर्वरकों तथा कम्पोस्ट/खेतों से प्राप्त खाद के उपयोग को बढ़वा दे रही है। किसान इन स्रोतों को फसल उत्पादन बढ़ाने और मृदा की उर्वरता बनाए रखने में बहुत उपयोगी पाते हैं।

(ड़) उर्वरकों के संतुलित और समेकित उपयोग की योजना के अन्तर्गत भारत सरकार ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान जैविक उर्वकों के विकास और उपयोग की योजना के अन्तर्गत कम्पोस्ट संयंत्र लगाने के लिये 3.90 करोड़ रूपये तथा जैविक उर्वरक को बढ़ावा देने के लिये 12.63 करोड़ रूपये का अनुदान दिया हैं। नौंवी योजना के प्रथम दो वर्षो के दौरान जैविक उर्वरकों के उत्पादन हेतु अनुदान पर 0.90 करोड़ रूपये खर्च किए जा चुके हैं। पोषण के इन स्रोतों को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिये किसानों के खेतों पर प्रशिक्षण और प्रदर्शन आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं।

Production of Vegetables and Fruits

956. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the production of vegetables and fruits during the last three years and the details of exports during that period;

(b) whether it is a fact that India grows a wide range of fruits and vegetables yet we are not even a blip on the world horticultural exprot map and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to augment the export of horticultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The estimated production figures of fruits and vegetables are available upto 1995-96 and export»figures are available upto 1996-97. The estimatted production and their export during the last three years are given as under:—

(million tonnes)

Year	Production
1993-94	103.03
1994-95	105.88
1995-96	113.09

Year	Export
1994-95	0.55
1995-96	0.54
1996-97	0A70

(b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for India's dismal perfomiance are:

— lower per capita availability of fruits and vegetables in the country.
— lack of proper pre and post-harvest practices.
— lack of cold chain linkage and other infrastructural facilities.
— lack of good packaging.

(c) Government of India through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exprot Development Authority (APEDA) has proposed to augment the export of horticultural products by implementing following schemes^ programmes:

1. Integrated Programmes for Pre and Post Harvest Management.
2. Preparation of Manuals.
3. Promotion of Pack House Concept.
4. Vapour Heat Treatment Experiment.
5. Controlled Atmosphere^odified Atmosphere Experiments Transportation.
6. infrastructure facilites.

Besides, National Horticulture Board is providing soft loan assistance for creating market infrastructure facilities like cold storage, pre-cooling facilities, grading-packing centres, refrigerated transport etc. Further, it is proposed to modify the assistance from soft loan to capital subsidy at the rate of 25% for cold storage.

Insurance for Groundnut Crops

957. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for farmers to take insurance on their groundnut corps;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government insists on liking loans to agriculture insurance on groundnut too; and

(c) is so, the details of cost of compulsory insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTUE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covers those farmers who avail of crop loans from rural financial institutions for growing wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), pulses, oilseeds (including groundnut) crops. As per the provisions of the scheme loanee farmers in the notified areas and raising notified crops are compulsorily covered although participation by States in the scheme is optional. The rate of of insurance charges payable by the farmers are 2% of the sum insured for wheat, paddy and millets and 1% of the sum insured for pulses and oilseeds. 50% of the premium payable by the small and marginal farmers is subsidised by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis.

Production of cotton

958. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Desh bhar mem Kapas ke utpadan mein chintajanak girawat ayee" published in the Nav Bharat Times, dated 8th January, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) According to the news item, the production of cotton in the current year has declined steepily compared to the last year despite implementation of intensive Cotton Development Programme in 11 major cotton grawing States.

The report is, however, not factually correct as the production of cotton in the current year is estimated to be much higher at 140.1 lakh bales as compared to 111.4 lakh bales last year.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of cotton, a centrally sponsored scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in all major cotton growing States. The main strategies adopted under the scheme include the following:

(i) Transfer of technology to farmers through field demonstration, training, mass media etc.

(ii) Adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to minimize damages caused by diseases and pests.

(iii) Efforts to popularise newer varieties.

(iv) Enhancing area under irrigation through water saving devices etc.

The Government also announces the minimum support prices each year to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in the event of fall in the prices of cotton and arranges procurement through Cotton Corporation of India